

quite as much attention as can be afforded to it in a passing notice. With the best disposition towards its sponsor, and respect for the zeal and talents which have won him ample distinction in other more congenial fields, we trust that his next experiment in authorship will yield him more undivided honours, and that he may then wield the pen as freely as on this occasion he has used the scissors.

It is due to the publisher, and particularly to the local editor, Dr. W. Goebrecht, to say that the book is accurately printed and respectably got up; and that the index is especially meritorious as a characteristic and successful specimen of editorial labour.

E. H.

ART. XXI.—*Medical Lexicon—A Dictionary of Medical Science, containing a Concise Explanation of the Various Subjects and Terms of Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Hygiene, Therapeutics, Pharmacology, Pharmacy, Surgery, Obstetrics, Medical Jurisprudence, Dentistry, etc.; Notices of Climate, and of Mineral Waters; Formulae for Officinal, Empirical, and Dietetic Preparations, etc., with French and other Synonyms.* By ROBLEY DUNGLISON, M.D., LL.D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, etc., in the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. Revised and very greatly enlarged. 8vo. pp. 992. Philadelphia, 1857: Blanchard & Lea.

A DICTIONARY, if it but comprise a simple vocabulary of all the various terms that occur in the different branches, direct and collateral, of medical science, with a clear and concise definition of the sense in which they are employed—a mere terminological lexicon—is a work which every medical man will find a valuable appendage to his reading table. Some work of the kind is, in fact, indispensable to student and practitioner, more especially now, when the progress of discovery and of improvement in every department of medicine is such as to require the constant adoption of new terms to express the many and varied additions that are constantly being added to our stock of professional knowledge. If such a lexicon is confessedly a valuable and frequent book of reference alike to the physician and student, how much more so must be a dictionary, in which they are presented with not simply a definition, but a concise explanation of all the subjects and terms in every department of medicine, and in those sciences that are directly or indirectly connected with it, with notices also of climate and of mineral springs, formulae for officinal, empirical, and dietetic preparations, etc., of everything, in short, upon which they may at any time demand prompt general information, without the delay or trouble of consulting other works. The explanations given being, at the same time, expressed in a clear and definite manner, and in strict accordance with the views and usages of the latest and best authorities. It is precisely such a dictionary—full, copious, and accurate—that is presented to the profession by Dr. Dunglison, in the fifteenth edition of his medical lexicon now before us.

Complete and comprehensive as the work appeared to be in the preceding edition, the untiring industry and research of the author have enabled him to add to the present, six thousand additional subjects and terms. Many of these, he informs us, have been introduced into medical terminology in consequence of the progress of the science, whilst others had escaped the author in the previous editions.

While we cheerfully concede all credit to Dr. Dunglison for the production of a medical dictionary, better adapted for the wants of the profession than any other with which we are acquainted, and of a character which places it far above comparison and competition; some praise we think is due, likewise, to the publishers, who, by their liberality of expenditure in its passage through the press, have enabled the author to arrange all his additions and improvements in their appropriate places in the body of the work, instead of adding them, as an appendix, to the preceding edition; thus saving to those who have occasion to consult the dictionary, the trouble and vexation of a double refer-

ence; and this has been done, too, without materially increasing the bulk of the volume, by the employment of a small but very clear type, cast expressly for the work.

D. F. C.

ART. XXII.—*On the Nature and Treatment of Club-foot and Analogous Distortions, involving the Tibio-tarsal Articulation.* By BERNARD E. BRODHURST, Assistant Surgeon to the Royal Orthopædic Hospital, etc. etc. London: Churchill, 1856. 8vo. pp. 134.

THE introduction to the volume now before us is occupied with an historical retrospect of orthopædic surgery; and we are presented by Mr. Brodhurst with an accurate account, for the first time in an English dress, of the earlier operations practised for the relief of club-foot. That club-foot and its analogous affections had been studied by the ancient physicians, is sufficiently proven by a perusal of the chapters in which Hippocrates has discussed the subject; in fact, the treatment by mechanical apparatus which he lays down, will answer sufficiently well, even at this day, for the cure of the simpler forms of varus. Subsequent to the time of Hippocrates, for a period of 2000 years, little improvement was made in the treatment of this deformity, although we find frequent allusion to the complaint in the works of Paré, Severinus, and Fabricius-ab-Aquapendente. In 1784, tenotomy was successfully practised for the first time by Thilenius, of Frankfort, for the cure of equino-varus. The next operation of which we have mention, was that performed by Sartorius, in 1806; the result was not, however, favourable; indeed, we even wonder at the happy result in the preceding instance, when we learn that the method of operating adopted was by a large dissection with a free external wound. Subcutaneous tenotomy had not as yet been practised; it was reserved for Delpech to make this last and great improvement in the treatment of talipes. The rules which he laid down some few years later are, as our author states, “absolutely those which guide the surgeon at the present day.” Stromeyer afterwards practised Delpech’s operation extensively, although, undoubtedly, the merit of the procedure is due to Delpech.

In Chapter II., Mr. Brodhurst passes to the consideration of congenital talipes, and lays down the division of the various forms of the distortion. This portion of the work is well illustrated, and the description of the tissues at fault is drawn with exceeding clearness. The etiology of congenital talipes is next entered upon. The different opinions as to the cause of the affection may be classed as follows:—

- 1st. Malformations and displacements of the tarsal bones.
- 2dly. Affections of the muscular system.
- 3dly. Malposition in utero.
- 4thly. Disordered nervous influence.

The first three causes assigned cannot, in the opinion of our author, be substantiated by observation, for he adds, at p. 48, “It may be safely said that the tarsal bones are never primarily affected, but, being acted upon by the muscles, are twisted on their axes.” * * * “The muscles are doubtless the agents through which the tarsal bones become rotated, but being themselves under the influence of the nervous system, other agency than that of the muscles and ligaments is involved in the production of congenital distortions.” We are also told that the opinion of Cruveilhier, that malposition of the foetus in utero is the exciting cause, is equally untenable. With regard to the fourth and last cause mentioned above—viz., disordered nervous influence—Mr. Brodhurst informs us that club-foot, and all other distortions, are most frequently met with in those foetuses in whom there is deficiency or marked change from the normal state of the brain and spinal cord. In the anencephalic monster, these deformities are most common.

The causes of non-congenital talipes, which are next considered, are arranged by the author under the following heads—paralysis, spasm, inflammation,